

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
DOVER, DELAWARE**

THURSDAY, January 12, 2017

The January monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4th Floor Arts Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present Chairperson Calvin Christopher. Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Jamaal Bivens, Whittona Burrell, Stephen Elkins, Earnest Gulab, Kerri Harris, Rose Mary Hendrix, Gail Launay-Tarlecki, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Walter Smith Jr., Rosemarie Williams, and Dolores Finger Wright. DAG Zoe Plerhoples.

Commission Members not present: Commissioners Diaz Bonville (excused), Erika Caesar (unexcused), Chok-Fun Chui (excused), Bernice Edwards (unexcused), Michael Harpe (unexcused), Jordan Hines (unexcused), Doug James (excused), Prameela Kaza (excused), Janet Maull-Martin (unexcused), Olga Ramirez (excused), Roy Sudler Jr. (unexcused), and Robert Watson Jr. (unexcused).

Staff from Division of Human Relations Office: Romona Fullman, Vincent Petroff and Kelly Fox.

Members of the public present: Julie Fedele

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 5:39 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the December SHRC meeting were submitted. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Smith. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Elkins. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

III Members of the Public Present

No expressions.

IV Chair's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Human Relations Awareness Month – Chair Christopher expressed he was pleased with the event on January 10 th . The purpose of the event was to promote value and awareness for diversity and inclusion. Thanks given to the Division staff for organizing the event. The Public Awareness Committee (PAC) was recognized for their contributions. The PAC was charged to consider and plan next steps.	Determine next steps in creating awareness for the Commission and their mission.	Public Awareness Committee	Undefined
Black History Month – Chair Christopher asked that the Public Awareness Committee take the lead on an activity for Black History Month. He advised that Division staff is available to support the Public Awareness Committee.	Plan an activity for Black History Month.	Public Awareness Committee	Undefined
Deputy Attorney General Support – Chair Christopher advised he will assist with efforts for a designated DAG to represent the Division.	Contact the Attorney General regarding a DAG for the Division.	Chair Christopher Zoe Plerhoples	Undefined
Committee Leadership and Membership Assignments – Chair Christopher advised will review current Committee assignments.	Review Commission Committee. Make assignments/reassignments.	Chair Christopher	Before next scheduled meeting.
Sunset Review – Chair Christopher reported the members of the Joint Oversight and Sunset Review Committee have been named.	Review the legislators assigned to the JOSRC	Chair Christopher	Before next scheduled meeting.
A SHRC ad hoc committee was selected to contribute ideas for consideration in the sunset review process. Commissioner Awad expressed his schedule will not allow him to serve on this Committee.	Schedule Ad Hoc Committee meeting	Chair Christopher	Undefined

Transition of Government Administration – Chair Christopher reported that he will schedule a meeting with Governor Carney to discuss the State Human Relations Commission, public comments about a Civil Rights Commission and the Ivy Group’s report.	Schedule meeting with Governor-Elect Carney	Chair Christopher	Undefined
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V Director’s Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
A printed version of the Director’s Report was distributed.	Send Director’s Report electronically.	Director Fullman	Following meeting
Director Fullman reported a link for the Ivy Group’s Diversity and Inclusion report is in the Director’s Report. She encouraged all Commissioners to review the report and make suggestions on the Commissions involvement.	Review Diversity and Inclusion report and make suggestions.	All Commissioners	Undefined
Director Fullman reported that DOS Secretary Jeff Bullock has been nominated to remain the Secretary of State. She also advised he intends to accept the nomination.			
Director Fullman encouraged Commissioners to attend the Joint Finance Committee Hearing on January 31 st . The public comment portion of the agenda is an opportunity for Commissioners to express why SHRC’s work matters	Attend Joint Finance Committee Hearing	All available Commissioners	January 31, 2017
Director Fullman called attention to the emails sent regarding scheduled statewide activities in recognition of the contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr.	Participate in recognition events that were emailed by Kelly Brown.	All Commissioners	Undefined
Director Fullman expressed thanks for all that participated in the Human Relations Awareness			

Month event.			
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VI Committee Reports

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – No report.			
<u>Legislative Committee (LEG)</u> – No report. Director Fullman suggested having a table at Legislative Hall to increase visibility and awareness the duties and responsibilities of the Commission and Division. She suggested the Legislative Committee might want to take the lead on this initiative.			
<u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported her Committee intends to interview 2 candidates next month. Commissioner Burrell inquired on Commissioner re-appointments. Kelly Brown shared that term end dates are included in Commissioner Roster. As the end date approaches Commissioners apply online through the Governor’s Boards and Commissions website.	Interview two candidates	Community Response Committee	Next meeting
<u>Governor’s Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEO)</u> – Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki reported the meeting that was scheduled on January 10 th has been rescheduled until February 1st. Representatives from Labor Relations and the Ivy Group will be at the meeting to provide a high level report of the Diversity and Inclusion report.			

VII Old Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Commissioner Maihoff shared a history of the diversity of the Commission. She advised that when new members are recruited a diversity is a key consideration – including religious diversity.			

VIII New Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Commissioner Harris shared a conversation she and Director Fullman had with Charito Calvachi-Mateyko, Co-Chair of the Delaware Hispanic Commission, concerning the formation of a new Delaware Civil Rights Coalition (DCRC). There will be a press conference announcing the Coalition on Thursday, January 19 th . This will be followed by a Know your Rights Workshop conducted by the ACLU of Delaware.	Attend press conference and workshop on January 19 th .	All Commissioners	January 19, 2017
Director Fullman reported that Vincent Petroff recently sent an email concerning an article about bomb threats to the Jewish Community Center. She encouraged all Commissioners to share articles with the Division office for dissemination to Commissioners.	Share articles of interest	All Commissioners	Ongoing

IX Good News

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Commissioner Awad made recommendation for all to see the movie Hidden Figures.			
Commissioner Awad shared the 1 st wave of refugees			

will be coming to Delaware in February. He indicated there are approximately 15 families. Commissioner Harris suggested perhaps the Commission can welcome the refugees. Director Fullman suggested a conversation take place to determine what this would look like. Commissioner Awad share there are 36 faith based communities providing support to the refugees.			
Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki shared that on January 26, 27 and 28 th she will be singing with the Camp Rehoboth Chorus concert. Program is called <i>Come Fly with Me</i> . Tickets are available on the Camp Rehoboth website for \$25.00.			
Commissioner Elkins share that he will not be present at the February Commission meeting as he will be traveling to Hong Kong.			

XI Meeting Adjourned

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:34 p.m. by Chair Christopher.